

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE • II CHRON. 7:14



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Challenging Christians to Pray — February 2006

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Office:

Petroleum Building

200 W. 1st Street • Suite 531

Roswell, New Mexico 88203-4676

(505) 623-6925

Fax: (505) 623-6925

E-mail: mwpbs@yahoo.com

*“Intercessors are like eagles,
they don't flock, you find
them one at a time.”*

Mailing Address

P. O. Box 686

Roswell, New Mexico 88202-0686

U.S.A.

From The Heart Of An Intercessor

Second Reformation (Part One)

It is no exaggeration to say that our beloved nation is in a moral and spiritual quandary, and we desperately need another Reformation or we are sunk. When moral and spiritual decay permeate society, people of faith and prayer put on the armor of God and ready to fight for the souls of men and women that Christ died for. Our world is in a tailspin and it is desperately crying out for the voice of a wounded prophet who can clear the deck and strike at the very heart of our wanton culture. The more prosperous nations become, they tend to sin and rebel and sin brings shame and hopelessness. When God's people are confronted with a litany of social and moral problems, they long for the visitation of the holy One of Israel.

The Christian Church needs no new Messiah to save her from sagging spirituality. She needs no frills and thrills — all she needs is to proclaim the resurrection message unmistakably and unapologetically. Instead of preaching the message of hope and resurrection, we've a generation of "pillow prophets" who couch their messages in order to appease a generation of materialists who undermine the basic tenets of the Christian faith. One popular preacher on television dislikes the word sin. Instead of the word "sin," he prefers the less offensive terms "faults and weaknesses." The New Agers never acknowledge the inherent nature of sin; they claim that they are not sinners and therefore they don't need a Savior. When we reject original sin, we reject God. Liberalism is Christianity without the cross. The cross is the ultimate balance. We must go to the cross for forgiveness and cleansing. Our culture makes sin a virtue. Beloved, Jesus died on the cross to redeem a fallen race. On the cross sin worked its worst and love worked its best. *"Sin and the sense of sin will always be with us,"* writes Julian Huxley. St. Augustine wrote: *"If man had not sinned, the Son of Man would not have come."* Beloved, Christian history is on our side, and don't let the present day "pillow prophets" bamboozle us with their New Age lectures and spell-binding television programs.

What's Reformation? Reformation is a community filled with the awesome presence of God. That is the difference between occasional revival and highly financed evangelistic campaigns. In highly advertised evangelism, in successful crusades, we have few hundreds saved here and there, but the community remains virtually unchanged where men and women continue to live without

the fear of God. When God moves, when hearts are cleansed by His power, the community becomes aware of the presence of the living God, and people conduct themselves in a manner in which Jehovah will be worshipped and revered. A. J. Gordon put it succinctly: *“Too many people are trying to do God's work with human fire crackers rather than using God's dynamite.”* True salvation requires heartfelt conversion and conversion is the gateway to a life of power and perpetual victory over sin. A mere religious ecstasy, a spurt of religious excitement is not my idea of getting converted. Every true conversion must be preceded by genuine repentance. True repentance is not a whimsical look or a change of position. In a revival meeting, a young soldier got up and testified, “My fellow soldiers, I am not excited, but I am convinced that I ought to be a Christian. That is all!” When the Spirit works, it works thoroughly. When God moves, people will come, and will come gladly. *“And they continued steadfastly”* (Acts 2:42). That is to say, they did not backslide. So many are living today in the shadow of a vanished past with faded memories of a salvation which they never experienced. We live our Christian life so casually and rely upon our environment and instincts rather than relying on God's Word. We need genuine conviction that makes people cry out in agony, *“What shall we do to be saved?”* Salvation, this glorious and mighty transaction comes not from any effort on our part, but by the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit. What America and the world need is not a “prosperity gospel,” but a gospel of power and purity where men and women will be driven to their knees to seek the Lord while He may be found. In fact, evangelical Christianity is sinking in seminars, conferences, concerts and promoting men instead of God. Where does that take us? We are still gazing upon an enemy that seems to be more challenging, vocal, alluring and demanding.

Now we've something else to occupy our time with, that is entertainment. Gospel entertainment is the golden calf of many evangelical Christians today. Much of what goes on in the name of worship is the entertainment, and no wonder we've created a nightclub atmosphere in the house of the Lord. Godly modesty weeps as she observes that sensuous glamour is more coveted by many in the sanctuary than the beauty of a meek and humble spirit. Today's sophisticated worshipers are demanding all sorts of entertainment, and it seems that if they don't find what they are looking for, they shop around until they find something according to their culinary taste.

Jim Frankel, Columnist for the Cleveland Press, said, *“If and when American civilization collapses, historians of a future date can look back and sneer, they entertained themselves to death.”* But if we prefer such indictment in a religious tone, well, here is what A.W. Tozer, a 20th century prophet said, *“America is laughing her way to hell.”* The Europeans need another Luther. England needs another Wesley. America needs another Finney to strike at the very conscience of this nation with the preaching that is profoundly disturbing and downright convicting. The early Christians prayed for unction from on high, not entertainment from men. There are ominous signs today that the enemy is out to derail and demoralize us in the name of Christian entertainment, and if we are not careful we will end up in the potholes of human carnality. The apostles were not men of social clout and material affluence but they were anointed men of God. Let's proclaim the *“gospel of power and purity”* in a shabby world of material ambition and godless gloom!

(Watch the next issue for part two)

2006 Nigerian Crusades / Conferences

With Matthew Skariah
March 13 - 30, 2006

Isuikwuato Prayer Summit
March 13-15
Isuikwuato, Abia State

City-wide Crusade
March 16-18
Isuikwuato, Abia State

Rally at Abia State Capital
March 20-21

Prayer Conference
March 22-23

Host Minister: Rev. Edwin C. Nwaoha

Conference / Crusade
World For Christ Mission
March 25-30
Akwa, Ibom State

Host Minister: Rev. E.J. Akam

Passion for Souls

Soul-winning is God's work. It will be done with or without us. We should be thankful He wants to include us. Life is not a matter of duration but service. When we give ourselves unselfishly to others, the blessing comes back to us in the end. Self-denial should be practiced at all cost. When we cease to exhibit passion for souls, we cease to exist as passionate Christians! The hour is very late and the harvest is ripe. Let's "strike while the iron is hot." Remember, time waits for no man. Even if we are on the right track, we will get run over if we just sit there. Christians, let's move on!

When Christians become too materialistic — they lose their moral and spiritual compass. God has been faithful to provide for our every need. Let's do all we can to serve Him, not out of sense of duty, but simply because we love Him. A life lived in obedience to God is the most fruitful life.

*The world is becoming incurably self-centered.
Isn't it time that Christians should become incurably Christ-centered?*

Voice from the past

Now, I have no desire for wealth, position and honor. Nor do I desire even heaven. But I need Him who has made my heart heaven. His infinite love has expelled the love of all other things. The heart is the throne of the King of Kings. The capital of heaven is the heart where that King reigns.

— Sadhu Sundar Singh